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The WOOL SITUATION

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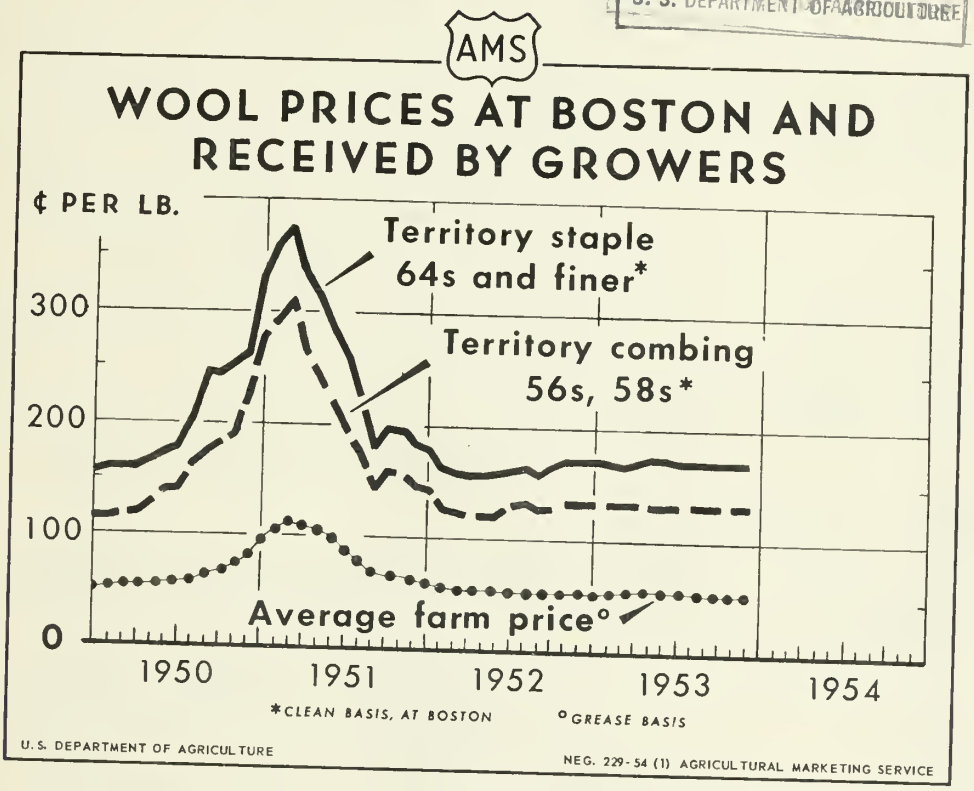

A sharp decline in quotations for wool at Boston between March 1951 and March 1952 more than offset the advance to record levels following outbreak of war in Korea. Prices at Boston then trended upward during the remainder of 1952 and since late 1952 have been relatively stable.

The mid-month average of prices received by growers for shorn wool reached a record high in March 1951 but then declined until early 1952. Prices received since the beginning of the 1952 marketing season have been relatively stable, fluctuating within a range of 51.0 to 55.6 cents.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL MARKETING SERVICE

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part I - Prices

Item	Unit	1952 Oct.	1952 Nov.	1952 Dec.	1953 Jan.	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov.	1953 Dec.	1954 Jan.	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Average price received by farmers, grease basis	Cents per pound	52.8	52.9	53.0	51.0	53.2	52.1	52.2	52.1	102
Parity price		58.9	58.7	58.7	1/	58.0	58.2	58.4	1/	99
Farm as percent of parity	Percent	90	90	90		92	90	89		
Boston market prices, clean basis 2/	Cents per pound									
Domestic wool										
Graded territory										
Fine good French combing and staple	do.	166.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	100
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	149.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	152.5	100
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	128.5	133.0	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	132.5	100
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	118.5	122.5	122.5	122.5	120.5	120.0	120.0	120.0	98
Low 1/4 blood	do.	96.5	100.0	102.5	102.5	102.5	102.5	104.9	106.5	104
Common and braid	do.	87.0	92.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	97.5	102.5	102.5	105
Graded fleece										
Delaine	do.	167.0	172.0	172.3	173.5	181.2	180.0	180.0	180.8	104
1/2 blood good French combing and staple	do.	144.0	147.5	147.5	152.5	147.4	147.5	147.9	148.0	97
3/8 blood good French combing and staple	do.	116.8	122.5	122.5	122.5	120.0	120.4	120.5	120.5	98
1/4 blood good French combing and staple	do.	109.3	114.0	114.0	114.0	113.6	114.0	112.8	113.2	99
Low 1/4 blood	do.	91.5	96.5	100.5	100.5	106.0	106.0	106.3	106.5	106
Common and braid	do.	81.5	88.8	95.0	95.0	95.0	95.0	101.0	101.0	106
Original bag Texas										
Fine 12 months good French combing and staple	do.	166.0	172.5	173.5	177.5	182.5	182.5	180.5	182.5	103
Fine 8 months (1" and over)	do.	148.0	152.9	155.5	157.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	167.5	106
Fine fall (3/4" and over)	do.	133.5	137.5	138.5	143.0	155.0	155.0	155.8	156.0	109
Imported wool, excluding duty										
Australian										
64's, 70's warp and 1/2 warp	do.	158.5	167.5	172.5	177.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	182.5	103
64's, 70's good topmaking	do.	153.5	162.5	167.5	172.5	178.0	178.0	177.9	177.5	103
64's combing	do.	148.5	157.5	162.5	167.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	172.5	103
58's, 60's combing	do.	128.5	137.5	142.5	147.5	147.5	147.5	146.5	142.5	97
Montevideo super										
0's (58's, 60's)	do.	121.5	121.5	120.7	121.6	125.5	125.5	125.5	125.5	103
1's (56's)	do.	107.0	107.0	102.6	102.6	111.0	111.0	111.0	111.0	108
2's (50's)	do.	94.3	95.5	93.1	93.6	104.5	104.5	104.5	104.5	112
3's (46's, 48's)	do.	83.0	83.0	83.0	84.1	94.5	94.5	94.5	94.5	112
4's (44's)	do.	73.5	80.5	85.5	85.9	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	101
5's (40's)	do.	73.5	81.2	85.8	85.9	86.5	86.5	86.5	86.5	101
Other textile fibers										
Cotton, middling 15/16" 3/	do.	36.6	34.8	33.1	32.5	32.7	32.7	32.6	33.2	102
Man-made synthetic staple fiber										
Viscose, 1 1/2 denier 4/	do.	40.0	37.1	37.0	37.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	---	92
Acetate, 5 denier 4/	do.	42.0	41.4	39.0	39.0	34.0	34.0	34.0	---	87
Nylon, 3 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	170.0	170.0	170.0	---	
Dacron, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	180.0	180.0	180.0	---	
Orlon, 3, 4.5, and 6 denier 5/	do.	---	---	---	---	190.0	190.0	190.0	---	
Acrilan, 3 and 5 denier 5/	do.	---	---	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	185.0	---	100
Dynel, 2, 3, 6, 12, and 24 denier 5/	do.	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	128.0	---	100
Vicara, 2, 3, 4, 5, and 7 denier 5/	do.	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	---	100

1/ Not available.
2/ From AMS Boston market reports.
3/ Average of 10 markets.
4/ From Textile Organon.
5/ From Modern Textile Magazine.

THE WOOL SITUATION

Approved by the Outlook and Situation Board, February 17, 1954

SUMMARY

Production of wool in the United States this year probably will be less than last. Output of shorn wool probably will decline since the number of stock sheep at the beginning of the year was down slightly. Fewer sheep and lambs are expected to be slaughtered this year which would result in reduced production of pulled wool.

World supplies of wool for the current season are expected to be about the same as for the 1952-53 season. An increase in production is forecast, but stocks at the beginning of the season were smaller than a year earlier.

Quotations at Boston for most imported wools in February were up slightly from a year earlier, while quotations for most domestic wools were about the same. Wool prices in world markets generally have been relatively stable since early 1953. It appears likely that they will continue so through the current British Dominion auction season. Prices of most fine wools at the auctions early in February were slightly lower than a year earlier, but prices of crossbreds were a little higher.

Loans made under the Government support program were outstanding on about 31 million pounds of shorn wool at the beginning of this year, compared with 77 million pounds a year earlier. With world demand stronger this season and the national average support level about a cent lower than for the 1952 clip, a larger portion of the clip was marketed outside the program. Growers' returns from the 1954 clip probably will not average greatly different from this year.

The rate of mill consumption of apparel wool in the United States began to decline during the third quarter of last year. During the last 2 months it was over one-third below a year earlier and the lowest since May 1940. The average weekly rate of consumption during the fourth quarter was the lowest for that quarter since 1937. However, since the rate of consumption during January-August was well above a year earlier, total use for the year was about the same as the year before. The decline during the latter part of the year probably reflected relatively high ratios of inventories to sales of manufactures. Sales were lower than anticipated. Some improvement in the rate of consumption is likely as these ratios are reduced to better working levels. The rate of consumption of carpet wool during the latter part of the year was below a year earlier, but the total for the year was above the quantity used during 1952.

United States imports of dutiable wool for consumption last year were substantially below 1952. The lower imports reflect the larger quantity of domestic wool used last year and the heavier use of trade stocks to meet requirements. Imports of duty-free wool during the latter part of last year were below a year earlier, but the total for the year was larger than that for 1952. The increase reflected the greater use of wool in the manufacture of floor coverings last year.

World consumption of wool is estimated to have declined slightly during the third quarter of last year. The decline that quarter was the first after a rise that extended through the 7 preceding quarters. The annual rate of consumption during the first 3 quarters of last year exceeded estimated production during the 1952-53 season and the production forecast for the current season.

Prices of Wool in Foreign Markets

Prices of wool have fluctuated within unusually narrow ranges following the decline which took place toward the end of the 1952-53 selling season in the British Dominions (table 1). Wool prices had advanced almost continuously from the post-Korea low levels reached in April 1952 until late May 1953.

Prices of fine wools at the Australian auctions early in February were about the same as a year earlier but slightly below the levels of May 1953. Prices of crossbreds were higher than a year earlier but a little lower than last fall.

Early in February, prices of fine wools at the auctions in the Union of South Africa were slightly lower than a year earlier and lower than last May.

Prices of crossbreds at the New Zealand auctions early in February of this year were a little higher than a year earlier but generally slightly lower than earlier this year.

Prices of Wool Stable at Boston

Quotations at Boston have fluctuated within relatively narrow ranges since early 1953.

Early in February, prices of Australian 64's and finer wools were quoted a little higher than in early 1953. Quotations for 58's, 60's, however, were slightly lower. Quotations for Montevideo wools were slightly higher than in early 1953. Prices of Buenos Aires 5's and 5/6's were up slightly.

Boston quotations early this year for original bag Texas fine wools were slightly higher than early last year, but quotations for

Table 1 .- Prices of good fleece wools at the London auctions, in cents and pence per pound, clean basis (Bradford yield), by months, 1950-54

Week ended 1/	Good medium fleeces		Fine Crossbred fleeces		Crossbred fleeces	
	64's-70's	64's-70's	56's	56's	46's	46's
	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence	Cents	Pence
1950						
January 27	173.9	149.0	114.4	98.0	70.0	60.0
February 10	158.7	136.0	95.7	82.0	60.7	52.0
March 16	158.7	136.0	93.4	80.0	63.0	54.0
March 31	170.4	146.0	102.7	88.0	70.0	60.0
May 5	177.4	152.0	110.9	95.0	75.9	65.0
May 19	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	79.4	68.0
July 6	184.4	158.0	114.4	98.0	80.5	69.0
July 21	198.4	170.0	123.7	106.0	89.9	77.0
September 22	285.9	245.0	198.4	170.0	166.9	143.0
October 6	262.6	225.0	186.7	160.0	152.9	131.0
November 24	282.4	242.0	200.7	172.0	179.7	154.0
December 8	293.9	252.0	227.4	195.0	191.3	164.0
1951						
February 2	355.9	305.0	256.7	220.0	221.7	190.0
February 16	364.1	312.0	280.1	240.0	228.7	196.0
April 6	350.1	300.0	256.7	220.0	210.1	180.0
April 20	2/	2/	245.1	210.0	210.1	180.0
June 5	309.2	265.0	198.4	170.0	145.9	125.0
July 13	221.7	190.0	2/	2/	116.7	100.0
July 20	221.7	190.0	147.0	126.0	119.0	102.0
September 21	145.8	125.0	98.0	84.0	78.1	67.0
October 4	204.1	175.0	139.9	120.0	101.5	87.0
December 5	175.0	150.0	112.0	96.0	85.2	73.0
December 14	178.4	153.0	113.1	97.0	88.6	76.0
1952						
January 25	162.2	140.0	95.0	82.0	81.1	70.0
February 8	165.7	143.0	98.5	85.0	81.1	70.0
March 21	147.3	126.0	79.5	68.0	57.3	49.0
April 3	147.5	126.0	72.6	62.0	51.5	44.0
May 16	163.5	140.0	91.1	78.0	64.2	55.0
May 23	166.3	143.0	91.9	79.0	64.0	55.0
July 18	181.1	156.0	104.5	90.0	78.9	68.0
July 25	174.2	150.0	96.4	83.0	76.6	66.0
September 19	164.6	142.0	91.6	79.0	74.2	64.0
September 26	171.7	148.0	99.8	86.0	76.6	66.0
November 28	175.1	150.0	108.6	93.0	84.0	72.0
December 12	177.6	152.0	107.5	92.0	81.8	70.0
1953						
January 16	185.2	158.0	107.8	92.0	84.4	72.0
January 23	183.0	156.0	93.9	80.0	75.1	64.0
February 20	190.3	162.0	101.0	86.0	78.7	67.0
March 20	193.5	165.0	107.9	92.0	84.4	72.0
March 27	197.1	168.0	107.9	92.0	89.1	76.0
May 8	202.7	173.0	110.2	94.0	89.1	76.0
May 15	211.1	180.0	110.2	94.0	89.1	76.0
July 10	201.8	172.0	103.2	88.0	83.3	71.0
July 24	197.1	168.0	106.8	91.0	85.7	73.0
September 18	188.9	162.0	110.8	95.0	89.8	77.0
October 2	192.5	165.0	114.3	98.0	93.3	80.0
November 27	187.5	160.0	109.0	93.0	91.4	78.0
December 11	187.4	160.0	105.4	90.0	89.0	76.0
1954						
January 22	183.9	157.0	105.4	90.0	82.0	70.0
January 29	183.9	157.0	105.4	90.0	83.2	71.0

1/ Opening and closing weeks for each series. 2/ No quotations.

Compiled from Kreglinger and Fernau Market reports. Prices converted from pence to cents at current rates of exchange.

STATISTICAL SUMMARY
Part II - Supplies and Mill Activity

Item	Unit	1952 Aug.	1952 Sept.	1952 Oct.	1952 Nov.	1953 Aug.	1953 Sept.	1953 Oct.	1953 Nov. 1/	Last data available as percent of a year earlier
Imports for consumption, clean content	Million pounds									
Dutiable 2/	do.	18.1	17.1	47.4	9.6	10.0	12.8	10.6	7.9	82
Finer than 56's	do.	10.8	9.7	29.5	6.5	4.9	6.8	5.2	5.7	88
44's - 56's	do.	3.7	3.5	10.2	1.6	2.2	2.4	2.4	1.1	69
40's - 44's	do.	1.7	1.7	4.3	.2	.8	2.0	1.4	.3	150
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.5	2.0	2.6	1.1	1.9	1.3	1.4	.7	64
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	.4	.2	.5	.2	.2	.3	.2	.1	50
Duty-free	do.	8.0	10.3	16.3	10.3	8.4	9.5	9.5	8.2	80
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	6.1	6.3	9.1	6.2	4.8	5.2	5.4	5.2	84
Not finer than 40's	do.	1.9	4.0	7.2	4.1	3.6	4.3	4.1	3.0	73
Accumulated since January 1										
Dutiable 2/	do.	159.4	176.4	223.9	233.5	126.4	139.2	149.8	157.7	68
Finer than 56's	do.	104.7	114.4	143.9	150.4	79.0	85.7	90.9	96.6	64
44's - 56's	do.	30.6	34.0	44.3	45.8	21.8	24.1	26.5	27.7	60
40's - 44's	do.	10.6	12.3	16.6	16.9	5.9	7.9	9.4	9.6	57
Not finer than 40's	do.	10.9	12.9	15.5	16.7	17.8	19.1	20.5	21.2	127
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	2.2	2.3	2.9	3.1	2.0	2.3	2.5	2.6	84
Duty-free	do.	67.4	77.8	94.0	104.3	96.6	106.1	115.7	123.9	119
Donskoi, Smyrna, etc.	do.	45.5	51.9	60.9	67.1	49.8	55.1	60.5	65.7	98
Not finer than 40's	do.	21.9	25.9	33.1	37.2	46.8	51.0	55.2	58.2	156
Imports for consumption, actual weight										
Dutiable	do.	27.0	25.5	71.3	15.3	15.1	19.0	15.9	12.5	82
Duty-free	do.	10.6	14.3	23.5	14.7	12.1	13.7	13.7	11.6	79
Mill consumption, scoured basis 3/										
Per week, during month 4/										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	1,000 pounds	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	7,470	6,934	5,929	4,747	67
60's and finer	do.	3,973	3,817	3,690	3,373	3,666	3,575	3,119	2,505	74
50's up to 60's	do.	2,622	2,825	2,850	2,782	2,873	2,424	2,087	1,598	57
48's and coarser	do.	1,026	1,142	1,116	965	931	935	723	644	67
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	2,639	2,485	2,346	2,248	80
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel (domestic and duty-paid foreign)	Million pounds	222.0	253.2	291.5	319.9	255.2	282.9	312.6	331.6	104
60's and finer	do.	115.8	131.1	149.6	163.0	127.5	141.8	157.3	167.4	103
50's up to 60's	do.	78.1	89.4	103.6	114.7	94.6	104.3	114.8	121.2	106
48's and coarser	do.	28.1	32.7	38.3	42.2	33.1	36.8	40.5	43.0	102
Carpet (duty-free foreign)	do.	71.6	82.6	95.8	107.1	91.8	101.8	113.5	122.5	114
Woven wool fabric production 5/	Million linear yards									
Accumulated since January 1										
Apparel fabrics	do.		224.4				224.1			100
Government orders	do.		53.7				16.0			30
Men's and boys' wear	do.		78.0				102.1			131
Women's and children's wear	do.		92.7				106.0			114
Non-apparel fabrics	do.		31.2				38.5			123
Blanketing	do.		17.2				22.6			131
Other non-apparel fabrics	do.		14.0				15.9			114
Total woven fabrics	do.		255.6				262.6			103

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Includes carbonized wool which is not reported by grade.
3/ On woolen and worsted systems; excludes wool consumed on the cotton and other spinning system and in the manufacture of felts, hat bodies, and other miscellaneous products.
4/ Monthly periods are 4 or 5 calendar weeks generally totaling 13 weeks each quarter.
5/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight.

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

most original bag territory wools were slightly lower (table 2). Quotations for graded territory three-eighths blood and finer wools were about the same; for quarter-blood, about the same or slightly lower; and for low quarter-blood and common and braid, slightly higher. Prices of graded fleece fine wools were quoted slightly higher; for half, three-eighths, and quarter blood slightly lower; and for low quarter blood and common and braid, slightly higher.

Prices of most pulled wools, both domestic and imported, were quoted slightly higher than a year earlier.

Quotations for most domestic shorn wools early in February were above loan rates under the 1953 program (table 3). Among the exceptions were some of the territory quarter blood and lower wools and fleece three-eighths blood and quarter blood wools.

Quotations for almost all pulled wools were above 1953 program purchase prices.

Prices Received by Growers for Shorn Wool

The mid-month average of prices received by growers for shorn wool this season has ranged from a low of 52.1 cents per pound, grease basis, in November 1953 and January 1954 to a high of 55.6 cents in June 1953. The mid-month average was equal to or higher than that for the corresponding month of the previous season each month except for November and December, when it was slightly below.

During the first 4 months of the season, which began last April, and in October prices received averaged higher than the national average support level but during the other months averaged slightly below.

Minimum Support for 1954 Wool Set at 52.1 Cents Per Pound

It has been announced that the national average support price for 1954 wool will be not less than 52.1 cents per pound, grease basis, compared with 53.1 cents for 1953. If the parity price for wool as of March 15, 1954, is higher than that used in establishing the minimum support level, the support price will be increased to reflect 90 percent of parity at that time.

Advance and nonrecourse loans will be available to producers on both shorn and pulled wool from May 1, 1954, through March 31, 1955. Under the 1953 program, prices of pulled wool are being supported through purchases.

Advance loans at not more than 70 percent of the estimated appraisal value will mature in 6 months from the date of the note or on March 31, 1955, whichever is earlier. Nonrecourse loans will mature on April 30, 1955.

Table 2.- Prices of domestic shorn wool at Boston, clean basis, for week ended February 12, 1954 with comparisons

Classification	Average 1947-49	1951 week ended Mar. 16	1953 week ended Feb. 13	1954 week ended Feb. 12	Percent change week ended February 12, from		
					Average 1947-49	Mar. 16, 1951	Feb. 13, 1953
	Cents	Cents	Cents	Cents	Percent	Percent	Percent
Graded shorn							
Territory and Texas							
Fine, good French combing and staple	151.7	380.0	172.5	172.5	+13.7	-54.6	0
½ blood, good French combing and staple	137.1	345.0	152.5	153.0	+11.6	-55.7	+0.3
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	109.1	315.0	132.5	132.5	+21.4	-57.9	0
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	100.0	300.0	122.5	120.0	+20.0	-60.0	-2.0
Low ¼ blood	89.9	260.0	102.5	106.5	+18.5	-59.0	+3.9
Common and braid	83.5	255.0	97.5	102.5	+22.8	-59.8	+5.1
Fleece							
Fine, Delaine	154.5	380.0	173.5	181.0	+17.2	-52.4	+4.3
½ blood, good French combing and staple	131.6	330.0	152.5	144.0	+9.4	-56.4	-5.6
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	103.2	290.0	122.5	120.0	+16.3	-58.6	-2.0
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	97.0	275.0	116.0	113.5	+17.0	-58.7	-2.2
Low ¼ blood	78.4	245.0	100.5	106.5	+35.8	-56.5	+6.0
Common and braid	73.4	240.0	95.0	101.0	+37.6	-57.9	+6.3
Original bag shorn							
Fine Texas							
Good French combing and staple	150.9	380.0	177.5	182.5	+20.9	-52.0	+2.8
Eight months (1 inch and over)	121.0	320.0	157.5	167.5	+38.4	-47.7	+6.3
Fall (¾ inch and over)	110.8	275.0	143.0	157.0	+41.7	-42.9	+9.8

Compiled from market reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

Table 3.- Market quotations and 1953 program loan rates per pound for domestic shorn wools, clean basis, Boston

Classification	1953 program loan rates	Boston quotations week ended February 12, 1954
	Dollars	Dollars
Graded shorn		
Territory and Texas		
Fine, good French combing and staple	1.63	1.70-1.75
Fine, average and good French combing	1.57	1.65-1.70
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.42	1.55-1.60
½ blood, good French combing and staple	1.49	1.50-1.56
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.29	1.30-1.35
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.20	1.18-1.22
Low ¼ blood	1.06	1.05-1.08
Common and braid	1.02	1.00-1.05
Fleece		
Fine, Delaine	1.64	1.80-1.82
Fine, short French combing and clothing	1.34	1.55-1.58
½ blood, good French combing and staple	1.44	1.40-1.48
3/8 blood, good French combing and staple	1.22	1.19-1.21
¼ blood, good French combing and staple	1.13	1.12-1.15
Low ¼ blood	1.01	1.05-1.08
Common and braid	0.97	1.00-1.02
Original bag shorn		
Fine Texas		
Good French combing and staple	1.63	180.0-1.85
Eight months (1 inch and over)	1.44	165.0-1.70
Fall (3/4 inch and over)	1.32	155.0-1.59

Compiled from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service.

President Proposes Direct Payments for Wool and Mohair

Under the program for wool recommended by the President, producers would receive direct payments equal to the difference between the average market price for the season and 90 percent of parity. Each producer would receive the same support payment per pound of wool no matter what price he received in the market. Funds for the direct payments to wool growers would come from the general revenues within the amount of unobligated tariff receipts from imports of wool and wool products.

The proposals recommended similar methods of support for pulled wool and mohair with proper regard for the relationships of their prices to those of similar commodities.

Bills introduced in the Congress (S. 2911 and H. R. 7775) propose that the Secretary of Agriculture support the prices of wool and mohair to producers by means of loans, purchases, payments, or other operations. The proposed legislation provides that the support price for shorn wool be at such incentive level as the Secretary, after taking into consideration prices paid and other cost conditions affecting sheep production, determines to be necessary in order to encourage an annual production of approximately 300 million pounds of shorn wool, grease basis.

It has been announced that if new legislation is enacted for wool price support, the new method may be made available to producers before the end of the marketing year even though the 1954 program is already in operation. In this event, the loan program would be terminated with respect to those producers whose wool has not been pledged to CCC and wool marketed after that date would be eligible for support under the new program.

1954 Mohair Support to be at 83 Percent of Parity

It has been announced that the national average support level for 1954 mohair production will be at 83 percent of the parity price for mohair as of March 15, 1954. The Agricultural Act of 1949, which made support for mohair mandatory, requires that the mohair support level be established at a proper relationship to the level set for wool.

The national average support level under the 1953 program, 60.7 cents per pound, grease basis, is 80 percent of the March 15, 1953, parity price for mohair.

Mohair prices have been above support levels since passage of the Agricultural Act of 1949. If support operations become necessary, prices will be supported through advance and nonrecourse loans as for wool.

About 31 Million Pounds of Wool Under Loan as of December 31

As of December 31, 1953, loans were outstanding on 31.3 million pounds of shorn wool under the 1953 price support program. Of the total, 7.0 million pounds were under advance loan and 24.3 million were under nonrecourse loan. In addition to wool under loan, the CCC owned 96.1 million pounds of shorn and pulled wool acquired under the 1952 program. Holdings of shorn wool amounted to 89.8 million pounds, 4.6 million pounds less than acquired. Holdings of pulled wool amounted to 6.3 million pounds.

On December 31, 1952, about 77.3 million pounds were under loan under the 1952 program. Advance loans accounted for 21.5 million pounds and nonrecourse loans for 55.8 million pounds. As of the same date, CCC had purchased 0.1 million pounds of pulled wool. Price support purchases of pulled wool, under the 1953 program, if necessary, will be made during April.

Prices of Man-made Staple Fiber Reduced

Manufacturers of some of the man-made staple fibers announced recently that prices of their fibers had been lowered. Acrilan 3.0 and 5.0 denier bright and semidull staple, which was listed at $1.85 per pound in December, is now listed at $1.40. Reductions for some of the other staple fibers include: Nylon 3.0 denier, semidull, normal tenacity, not crimpset staple from $1.70 to $1.50; Orlon 3 denier staple from $1.90 to $1.50; and Dacron 3.0, 4.5, and 6.0 denier bright and semidull staple from $1.80 to $1.60.

Output of man-made staple fiber in the United States last year totaled 365 million pounds, about 9 million pounds more than in 1952. Production of cellulosic staple increased from 307 to 310 million pounds; output of non-cellulosic staple increased from 49 to 55 million pounds. However, output during the second half of the year was below that of the first half. About 5 percent less cellulosic and about 50 percent less non-cellulosic staple was produced during July-December than during the previous 6 months.

Wool Production to be Lower; Sheep Numbers Decline 3 Percent

Combined output of shorn and pulled wool in the United States this year is likely to be down from 1953. Since sheep numbers at the beginning of the year were lower than a year earlier, less shorn wool probably will be produced. Less pulled wool is also likely since slaughter is expected to be lower.

The number of sheep on farms and ranches on January 1, 1954, 30.9 million head, was 3 percent below a year earlier and only 3 percent above the record low of January 1, 1950. The number of stock sheep, 26.9 million head, was down 3 percent from a year earlier and the number on feed, 4.0 million head, was down 4 percent (table 4).

Stock sheep numbers in the 13 Western States declined 4 percent during 1953. The number in Texas, 5.2 million head or about 19 percent of the United States total, was down 5 percent from a year earlier and the lowest since 1928. Stock sheep numbers increased 6 percent in Arizona and 3 percent in South Dakota but were unchanged in Oregon. In Wyoming, the number of stock sheep was down 8 percent, but in the remaining Western States declines ranged from 1 to 6 percent. The total number of stock sheep in the Native sheep States was down 1 percent.

World Production of Wool Increases

In December, the Foreign Agricultural Service estimated world wool production at 4,410 million pounds, grease basis, for the 1953-54 season, about 80 million pounds above the June forecast (table 5). At the same time, the estimate for 1952-53 was revised upward to 4,330 million pounds from 4,290 million pounds.

Table 4.- Number of stock sheep and lambs on farms and ranches, by class, United States, January 1, 1942-54

Year	Lambs		One year and over			Total stock sheep
	Ewes	Rams and wethers	Ewes	Rams	Wethers	
	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head	1,000 head
1942	7,864	1,778	37,361	1,446	897	49,346
1943	6,928	1,643	37,303	1,434	888	48,196
1944	6,142	1,951	33,991	1,345	841	44,270
1945	4,782	1,513	31,280	1,264	770	39,609
1946	4,765	1,530	27,619	1,100	511	35,525
1947	4,199	1,415	24,790	994	407	31,805
1948	4,058	1,144	23,013	901	370	29,486
1949	3,827	974	20,976	829	334	26,940
1950	3,908	1,109	20,057	790	318	26,182
1951	4,512	1,146	20,457	823	315	27,253
1952	5,065	831	21,034	843	277	28,050
1953	3,987	842	21,738	871	262	27,700
1954 1/	3,592	830	21,386	845	252	26,905

1/ Preliminary

Table 5.- Production of wool in specified countries, grease basis, 1948-53

Country	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Argentina	419.0	415.0	430.0	420.0	407.0	420.0
Australia	1,031.0	1,110.0	1,117.5	1,080.0	1,280.0	1,310.0
New Zealand	367.0	390.0	390.0	406.7	418.0	421.0
Union of South Africa	219.0	217.5	227.5	240.0	256.8	268.0
United States	278.4	248.5	247.8	251.4	266.0	2/
Uruguay	144.0	163.3	185.0	187.4	190.0	195.0
Other countries	1,311.6	1,345.7	1,402.2	1,464.5	1,512.2	1,531.0
Estimated world total	3,770.0	3,890.0	4,000.0	4,050.0	4,330.0	4,410.0

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Estimate to be released February 25, 1954.

Data for United States from reports of Agricultural Marketing Service; data for other countries and world totals from reports of Foreign Agricultural Service.

The Foreign Agriculture Service estimates that the 1953-54 production would be equivalent to about 2,540 million pounds of clean wool, of which about 2,080 million pounds would be apparel wool.

World production has increased each year since reaching a postwar low of 3,710 million pounds in 1947. The forecast for 1953-54 is 80 million pounds above the record output of 4,330 million pounds in 1952-53 and about one-eighth above prewar. However, since the increase in output of crossbred wool over prewar is much greater than that for the other wools, the increase on a clean basis would be almost one-fifth.

The estimated increase over last season in output in the 5 major surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere accounts for about three-fourths of the total net increase.

Production in Australia, which accounts for almost one-third of the world total, was estimated at 1,310 million pounds in December, up 30 million pounds from 1952-53 and a new record. However, more recent reports from Australia indicate that production is likely to be less than originally forecast.

Production in the Union of South Africa is expected to be about 11 million pounds larger than last season but about 15 percent below the record output of 1932-33.

An increase of about 3 million pounds over the record of 418 million pounds of last season is expected in New Zealand. The estimate for 1953-54 is about one-third over prewar.

The estimate of 420 million pounds for Argentina, the largest producer in South America, is about 13 million pounds above that for 1952-53 but about 95 million pounds below the record of 1943 and 1946.

Production in Uruguay is expected to be at a new record of 195 million pounds, up 5 million pounds from last season and up over 50 percent from prewar.

Total world supplies available for the season, however, are expected to be about the same as for 1952-53. The expected increase in production, if realized, would be just about offset by the lower stocks at the beginning of the season. Although total stocks in importing countries at the beginning of the season were up from a year earlier, the increase was more than offset by a decline in holdings in the exporting countries.

Exports of Wool From Southern Hemisphere

Total exports of wool from the 5 chief surplus-producing countries of the Southern Hemisphere during the 1952-53 season were substantially above those of both 1950-51 and 1951-52 (table 6). This reflected the larger supplies available for export and improved world demand for wool.

Table 6.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1949-50, 1950-51, 1951-52, and 1952-53 seasons

Exporting country	1949-50	1950-51	1951-52	1952-53	Percent change 1952-53 from 1951-52
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Percent
Australia	1,204	1,022	906	1,067	+ 17.8
New Zealand	411	262	458	383	- 16.4
Union of South Africa	179	197	214	217	+ 1.4
Argentina	360	172	92	462	+ 402.2
Uruguay	162	132	50	206	+ 312.0

Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

Exports from each of these countries were well above the previous season, except New Zealand, where exports in 1951-52 were unusually large because of the sale and shipment of a substantial carryover of 1950-51 wool early in the season. The relatively large exports from the South American countries during 1952-53 reflected the shipment of large quantities of wool carried over from 1950-51 and 1951-52.

Exports from Australia and the Union of South Africa during the early months of the current season were above those of early 1952-53 (table 7). Shipments from New Zealand and the two South American countries, however, were lower.

Table 7.- Exports of wool, actual weight, from Southern Hemisphere surplus-producing countries, 1951-52, 1952-53, and 1953-54 seasons through October 1/

Exporting country	1951-52	1952-53	1953-54
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
Australia	190	263	305
New Zealand	105	58	49
Union of South Africa 2/	61	73	78
Argentina 2/	3	87	12
Uruguay	---	12	2

1/ Season beginning July 1 in Australia, New Zealand, and Union of South Africa and season beginning October 1 in Argentina and Uruguay.
2/ Through November.

Compiled from reports of the Commonwealth Economic Committee.

United States Imports of Dutiable Wool Declined Sharply Last Year

Imports of dutiable wool for consumption trended downward last year, particularly during the second half, and for the year were substantially below the year before. Imports during January were above those of January 1952 but were below a year earlier each month thereafter. On a clean content basis, imports last year were the lowest since 1949.

Imports of dutiable wools not finer than 40's, which account for a small percentage of the total, were up about one-third; imports of all of the finer categories were down sharply.

Argentina and Uruguay accounted for a much larger proportion of total imports of dutiable wools last year while the British Dominions accounted for a much smaller proportion (table 8).

Imports of Duty-Free Wool Increased Last Year

Imports of duty-free wool during the first half of the year were well above a year earlier but during the second half were below. The total during the first 11 months of the year was about 25 percent above that of the year before. The increase over 1952 reflects the larger use of wool in the manufacture of floor coverings.

Table 8.- Percentage distribtuion of United States imports of wool by country of origin, January-November 1952-53

Country	Duty-free		Dutiable		Total	
	1952	1953	1952	1953	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Australia	0.1	0.1	37.1	27.1	25.6	15.2
New Zealand	16.7	9.2	23.5	14.0	21.4	11.9
Union of South Africa	.5	.7	10.2	5.8	7.2	3.6
Argentina	24.7	48.2	10.8	30.6	15.1	38.3
Uruguay	.1	.1	12.9	18.0	9.0	10.2
Other countries	57.9	41.7	5.5	4.5	21.7	20.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of U. S. Department of Commerce.

All of the increase in imports of duty-free wools was in wools not finer than 40's other than "named" wools.

World Consumption

The Commonwealth Economic Committee estimates, on the basis of preliminary data for 11 of the major consuming countries, that world consumption of wool during the third quarter was about 7 percent below that of the previous quarter. Consumption had increased gradually in the 7 preceding quarters. However, consumption usually declines seasonally during the third quarter. The seasonally adjusted rate during the third quarter was about the same as that of the second quarter.

Total consumption during January-September is estimated to have been almost one-fourth above that of the same period of 1952 and only 4 percent below the record of January-September 1950. The estimated annual rate of consumption during those months is estimated to have been higher than a year earlier and slightly in excess of estimated production during the 1952-53 season.

Mill Use of Apparel
Wool in the United States

The rate of consumption of apparel wool by woolen and worsted mills in the United States last year was above a year earlier through July but below thereafter (table 9). The rate of consumption in November and December was over one-third below a year earlier and the lowest since May 1940.

The total quantity used during the year, 352 million pounds, scoured basis, compared with 347 million pounds during 1952. However, after adjustment for the extra week covered by the 1953 total, the average weekly rate is almost identical. The total through June was one-fifth above early 1952, but the July-December total was about one-sixth below that of the same months of 1952. The decline during the latter part of the year probably reflected relatively high ratios of inventories to sales of manufactures. Sales were lower than anticipated.

Total consumption on the woolen system was down slightly from 1952 (table 10). During the first half of the year the rate of consumption was about the same and for some months slightly higher than a year earlier but was below a year earlier during later months. The average weekly rate during November was down 33 percent from a year earlier.

Consumption on the worsted system was substantially larger than in 1952. The rate was above a year earlier through August but then dropped below a year earlier. During November it was about 36 percent below a year earlier.

Table 9.- Weekly rate of consumption of apparel and carpet wool on woolen and worsted systems, scoured basis, United States, by months, 1950-53

Classification	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds
1950												
Apparel	8,006	8,837	8,518	7,943	8,268	8,084	7,370	9,901	9,015	9,671	7,871	7,393
Carpet	3,974	3,977	3,989	4,208	4,097	3,725	2,448	3,989	3,710	4,223	3,712	3,638
Total	11,980	12,814	12,507	12,151	12,365	11,809	9,818	13,890	12,725	13,894	11,583	11,031
1951												
Apparel	8,192	7,496	7,020	8,754	8,609	8,541	6,282	7,320	6,912	6,360	6,368	6,300
Carpet	3,416	3,410	3,268	2,507	1,807	1,622	413	1,040	1,069	1,556	1,663	1,761
Total	11,608	10,906	10,288	11,261	10,416	10,163	6,695	8,360	7,981	7,916	8,031	8,061
1952												
Apparel	5,904	6,218	5,971	5,876	6,277	6,779	6,335	7,621	7,784	7,656	7,120	6,725
Carpet	2,261	2,513	2,385	2,265	2,033	1,403	1,289	2,305	2,730	2,648	2,824	3,029
Total	8,165	8,731	8,356	8,141	8,310	8,182	7,624	9,926	10,514	10,304	9,944	9,754
1953												
Apparel	6,872	7,391	7,500	7,298	7,849	7,818	6,445	7,470	6,934	5,929	4,742	4,183
Carpet	2,738	3,164	3,203	2,864	2,434	2,577	1,554	2,639	2,485	2,346	2,248	2,164
Total	9,610	10,555	10,703	10,162	10,283	10,395	7,999	10,109	9,419	8,275	6,990	6,347

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 10.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption on woolen and worsted systems, United States, January-November, 1946-53

System	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Worsted	56.8	63.9	65.8	58.3	67.1	59.5	53.8	58.2
Woolen	43.2	36.1	34.2	41.7	32.9	40.5	46.2	41.8
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Consumption of all grades during January-November was above a year earlier (table 11). Consumption of 60's and finer was up 3 percent; of 50's up to 60's, up 6 percent; and of 48's and coarser, up 2 percent. During November, however, the rate of consumption was below a year earlier for all grades. The declines ranged from 26 percent for 60's and finer to 43 percent for 50's up to 60's. The declines on the worsted system were: 26 percent for 60's and finer; 40 percent for 50's up to 60's; and 74 percent for 48's and coarser. On the woolen system consumption of 60's and finer was down 25 percent; of 50's up to 60's, down 44 percent; but of 48's and coarser, up 5 percent.

The worsted system accounted for 58 percent of total consumption compared with 54 percent in 1952 and 60 percent in 1951.

Table 11.- Percentage distribution of apparel wool consumption, by grades, January-November, 1946-53

Grade	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
60's and finer	54.8	62.0	62.8	54.3	56.1	58.8	51.0	50.5
50's up to 60's	31.3	25.6	26.6	35.5	34.7	32.5	35.9	36.5
48's and coarser	13.9	12.4	10.6	10.2	9.2	8.7	13.1	13.0
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Carpet Wool
Consumption

The rate of mill consumption of carpet wool was above a year earlier each month last year through August but dropped below a year earlier during September. The rate during December was almost one-third below a year earlier.

Consumption during the year, 133.3 million pounds, scoured basis, was 11.5 percent over 1952. The January-August total was 28 percent larger than that of the same months of 1952, but the September-December total was 13 percent below.

Raw wool accounted for about 75 percent of the total quantity of fiber consumed by woolen and worsted mills in the spinning of carpet and rug yarns (table 12). The proportion of the total represented by raw wool has been relatively stable since mid-1952.

Production of Woolen
and Worsted Fabric

Output of woolen and worsted woven fabric (fabric principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool) during the third quarter of 1953 was 84 million linear yards, about 9 million yards lower than in the second quarter and about 4 million yards below a year earlier (table 13). The decline from a year earlier reflected lower Government orders; output of civilian fabrics was up over a year earlier (table 14). The decline in output from the previous quarter, however, reflected the smaller output of civilian fabrics.

Total output of woolen and worsted woven fabrics during the first three quarters amounted to 263 million yards, an increase of 7 million yards over 1952. Apparel fabrics accounted for 224 million yards, the same as in 1953, or about 85 percent of the total. Production toward Government orders was down almost 70 percent from 1952 and down 77 percent from 1951, and accounted for only 7 percent of the apparel fabric. In 1952, Government orders accounted for 24 percent; in 1951, for 30 percent; and in 1950, for 2 percent.

Output of non-Government apparel fabric totaled 208 million yards, an increase of 37 million yards from 1952 and of 41 million from 1951. Output of men's and boys' wear fabric, 102 million yards, was up 24 million yards from 1952 and up 16 million yards from 1951. The yardage of women's and children's wear fabric, 106 million yards, was up 13 million yards from 1952 and up 26 million yards from 1951.

Of the total yardage of non-Government apparel fabric produced, worsteds accounted for 36 percent of the total and woolens for the other 64 percent (table 15). Worsteds accounted for 33 percent in 1952, 45 percent in 1951, and 47 percent in 1950.

About 38 million yards of non-apparel fabric also were produced. This is 7 million yards above 1952 but 8 million yards below 1951. Output of blanketing, which accounted for 59 percent of the total, was up 6 million yards from 1952 and was about the same as in 1951. Output of non-Government blanketing was up 5 million yards or almost one-half over both 1952 and 1951.

Table 12.- Percentage distribution of fibers consumed for spinning of carpet and rug yarns on the woolen and worsted systems, United States, by months, 1950-53

Fiber	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Year
	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.	Pct.
Total													
1950	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1951	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1952	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
1953	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		
Shorn and pulled wool of the sheep													
1950	80.3	80.3	81.2	81.6	81.6	79.1	75.5	78.4	78.5	76.8	74.7	74.2	79.2
1951	73.9	71.4	72.5	63.0	54.6	52.0	38.7	56.2	57.4	65.5	64.5	69.8	64.5
1952	71.1	73.8	72.0	72.4	70.9	74.5	75.1	78.5	75.2	74.2	75.5	73.9	73.8
1953	74.1	73.9	75.1	77.0	73.4	74.4	74.7	77.8	75.9	74.6	75.8		
Other wool 1/													
1950	3.4	3.8	3.4	3.0	3.1	3.8	3.1	4.6	3.2	3.3	3.1	2.7	3.4
1951	2.5	2.8	3.3	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.7	2.8	2.1	2.4	2.0	3.7	3.0
1952	2.7	2.1	3.2	3.8	4.3	2.4	2.4	2.3	4.0	4.3	4.6	4.2	3.5
1953	4.1	5.3	4.9	5.0	4.2	6.2	4.5	4.7	4.4	5.4	4.9		
Reused and reprocessed wool 1/													
1950	10.8	9.2	9.7	9.4	9.2	10.1	11.5	8.7	9.8	9.7	10.2	8.7	9.7
1951	9.2	9.6	8.9	9.1	9.2	3.5	13.1	5.0	8.5	6.8	7.3	5.8	8.5
1952	6.8	5.9	4.7	4.8	5.9	8.4	10.4	6.2	5.9	5.6	4.4	4.6	5.9
1953	5.0	4.0	3.2	2.8	5.6	4.7	6.7	4.0	4.9	4.3	7.1		
Rayon (staple and other)													
1950	2.4	4.0	3.0	3.4	3.8	4.5	5.5	5.7	5.8	7.2	9.4	12.3	5.6
1951	11.7	13.8	13.4	22.0	29.4	31.9	37.1	31.4	27.7	21.5	22.3	17.5	20.8
1952	17.4	15.8	18.6	17.6	17.2	12.2	9.6	11.5	13.2	14.2	14.0	16.1	15.1
1953	15.6	15.8	15.7	14.1	15.5	13.7	13.1	12.1	13.5	14.5	11.1		
Other fiber													
1950	3.1	2.7	2.7	2.6	2.3	2.5	4.4	2.6	2.7	3.0	2.6	2.1	2.1
1951	2.7	2.4	1.9	2.4	3.2	4.0	7.4	4.6	4.3	3.8	3.9	3.2	3.2
1952	2.0	2.4	1.5	1.4	1.7	2.5	2.5	1.5	1.7	1.7	1.5	1.2	1.7
1953	1.2	1.0	1.1	1.1	1.3	1.0	1.0	1.4	1.3	1.2	1.1		

1/ As defined in the Wool Products Labeling Act of 1939. Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 13.- Woolen and worsted fabric production in the United States, January-September, 1951-53 1/

Fabric	January-September 1951	January-September 1952	January-September 1953 2/	Percentage change 1953 from 1951	Percentage change 1953 from 1952
	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	1,000 linear yards	Percent	Percent
Woven fabric (except felt)	284,075	255,580	261,862	-7.8	+2.5
Apparel	238,382	224,445	223,409	-6.3	-0.5
Woolen	118,669	142,647	141,509	+19.2	-0.8
Worsted	119,713	81,798	81,900	-31.6	+0.1
Government orders	71,848	53,735	16,133	-77.6	-70.0
Woolen	27,053	27,601	9,044	-66.6	-67.2
Worsted	44,795	26,134	7,089	-84.2	-72.9
Other than Government orders	166,534	170,710	207,276	+24.5	+21.4
Woolen	91,616	115,046	132,465	+44.6	+15.1
Worsted	74,918	55,664	74,811	-0.2	+34.4
Men's and boys'	86,408	78,022	101,482	+17.4	+30.1
Woolen	29,401	36,690	43,872	+49.2	+19.6
Worsted	57,007	41,332	57,610	+1.1	+39.4
Women's and children's	80,126	92,688	105,794	+32.0	+14.1
Woolen	62,215	78,356	88,593	+42.4	+13.1
Worsted	17,911	14,332	17,201	-4.0	+20.0
Non-apparel	45,693	31,135	38,453	-15.8	+23.5
Blanketing	22,973	17,134	22,589	-1.7	+31.8
Government orders	11,937	5,647	6,255	-47.6	+10.8
Other than Government orders	11,036	11,487	16,334	+48.0	+42.2
Other non-apparel	22,720	14,001	15,864	-30.2	+13.3
	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds	1,000 pounds		
Woven felt	9,117	5,996	6,377	-30.1	+6.4

1/ Principally wool, reprocessed wool, or reused wool by weight. Blanketing in 72 inch width or equivalent. Other fabrics in 54 to 60 inch widths or equivalent 54 inch width.

2/ Preliminary.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 14.- Percent of woolen and worsted apparel fabric and blanketing produced toward Government orders, 1950-53

Type of fabric	1950	1951 1st quarter	1951 2nd quarter	1951 3rd quarter	1951 4th quarter	1952 1st quarter	1952 2nd quarter	1952 3rd quarter	1952 4th quarter	1953 1/ 1st quarter	1953 1/ 2nd quarter	1953 1/ 3rd quarter
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	2.6	12.3	31.2	50.6	41.1	30.9	23.4	17.8	11.9	11.2	5.5	5.1
Blanketing	2/	11.7	56.0	69.8	54.2	38.1	26.8	32.2	41.0	40.1	28.1	21.9

1/ Preliminary.
2/ Not available.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 15.- Percentage distribution of woven woolen and worsted apparel fabric production, United States, January-September 1950-53

Fabric	January-September 1950	1951	1952	1953 1/
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Apparel	100	100	100	100
Woolen	56	50	64	63
Worsted	44	50	36	37
Government orders	100	100	100	100
Woolen	35	38	51	56
Worsted	65	62	49	44
Other than Government	100	100	100	100
Woolen	53	55	67	64
Worsted	47	45	33	36
Men's and boys'	100	100	100	100
Woolen	33	34	47	43
Worsted	67	66	53	57
Women's and children's	100	100	100	100
Woolen	72	78	85	84
Worsted	28	22	15	16

1/ Preliminary

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Woolen and worsted weavers also produced about 6 million pounds of woven felt during January-September 1953. This was about the same as in 1952 but about one-third lower than in 1951.

Cuttings of Men's Tailored Clothing

Total cuttings of all categories of men's tailored clothing during the first 11 months of 1953 were above both 1952 and 1951 (table 16). The increases over 1952 ranged from 9 percent for topcoats to 28 percent for summer-weight suits. The increases in cuttings, except for separate dress and sports trousers, over 1951 were somewhat smaller since production in 1952 was below that of 1951. Cuttings of separate dress and sports trousers increased from 1951 to 1952 and again from 1952 to 1953 reflecting the continuation of a trend in men's dress habits which started several years ago.

During the latter part of the year, however, cuttings of all categories, except separate dress and sports trousers, dropped below those of the corresponding months of 1952.

The increases over 1952 in cuttings from fabrics other than wool were somewhat greater than those from wool fabric (table 17). Cuttings of regular-weight suits from wool fabric were up about 8 percent, but cuttings of such suits from other fabric were up 20 percent. Corresponding increases for summer-weight suits were 27.8 and 28.2 percent and for separate dress and sports trousers were 11.0 and 18.7 percent.

Cuttings of Women's, Misses', and Juniors' Outerwear

Cuttings of fur-trimmed coats, untrimmed coats, suits, and unit-priced dresses during the first 9 months of 1953 were lower than during 1952 (table 18). However, more skirts were cut. The changes from 1952 ranged from a decline of 22 percent for fur-trimmed coats to an increase of 9 percent for skirts.

The proportion cut from wool fabric in 1953 was larger than in 1952 for all categories (table 19).

Table 16.- Cuttings of specified items of men's tailored clothing, United States, January-November 1951-53

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1953 from	
	1951 (48 weeks)	1952 (48 weeks)	1953 (48 weeks)	1951	1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Suits, total	18,244	17,596	19,955	+9.4	+13.4
Regular-weight	14,216	13,783	15,072	+6.0	+9.4
50 percent or more wool	13,118	12,684	13,758	+4.9	+8.5
Other	1,098	1,099	1,314	+19.7	+19.6
Summer-weight	4,028	3,813	4,883	+21.2	+28.1
50 percent or more wool	1,433	1,050	1,342	-6.4	+27.8
Rayon and other synthetics	2,595	2,763	3,541	+36.5	+28.2
Separate dress and sport trousers	36,421	41,935	48,718	+33.8	+16.2
50 percent or more wool	11,056	13,671	15,177	+37.3	+11.0
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	23,207	25,811	29,446	+26.9	+14.1
Chiefly cotton	2,158	2,453	4,095	+89.8	+66.9
Overcoats and topcoats	5,240	4,910	5,370	+2.5	+9.4

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 17.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of men's tailored clothing by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-November 1951-53

Type of garment	January-November		
	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Suits			
Regular-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	92.3	92.0	91.3
Other	7.7	8.0	8.7
Summer-weight	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	35.6	27.5	27.5
Rayon and other synthetics	64.4	72.5	72.5
Separate dress and sport trousers	100.0	100.0	100.0
50 percent or more wool	30.4	32.6	31.2
Chiefly rayon and other synthetics	63.7	61.6	60.4
Chiefly cotton	5.9	5.8	8.4

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 18.- Cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments in the United States, January-September 1951-53

Type of garment	Number of garments cut			Percentage change 1953 from	
	1951	1952	1953	1951	1952
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Percent	Percent
Fur-trimmed coats	1,413	1,342	1,044	-26.1	-22.2
Untrimmed coats	16,350	18,299	16,498	+.9	-9.8
Wool	12,169	15,234	14,878	+22.3	-2.3
Rayon and acetate	3,957	2,802	1,437	-63.7	-48.7
Other	224	263	183	-18.3	-30.4
Suits	14,191	12,905	10,849	-23.6	-15.9
Wool	5,427	4,552	4,236	-22.0	-7.0
Rayon and acetate	8,357	7,830	6,027	-27.9	-23.0
Other	407	523	586	+44.0	+12.0
Skirts	42,808	50,892	54,432	+26.9	+7.0
Wool	8,736	10,392	12,708	+45.5	+22.3
Rayon and acetate	18,744	21,072	20,520	+9.5	-2.6
Other	15,408	19,428	21,204	+37.6	+9.1
Unit-priced dresses	110,836	116,529	107,072	-3.4	-8.1
Wool	3,708	3,730	4,162	+12.2	+11.6
Rayon and acetate	75,048	75,183	64,489	-14.1	-14.2
Other	32,080	37,616	38,421	+19.8	+2.1

Compiled from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 19.- Percentage distribution of cuttings of specified women's outerwear garments by fiber content and type of garment, United States, January-September 1951-53

	1951	1952	1953
	Percent	Percent	Percent
Untrimmed coats	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	74.4	83.3	90.2
Rayon and acetate	24.2	15.3	8.7
Other	1.4	1.4	1.1
Suits	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	38.2	35.3	39.0
Rayon and acetate	58.9	60.7	55.6
Other	2.9	4.0	5.4
Skirts	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	20.4	20.4	23.3
Rayon and acetate	43.7	41.4	37.7
Other	35.9	38.2	39.0
Unit-priced dresses	100.0	100.0	100.0
Wool	3.3	3.2	3.9
Rayon and acetate	67.7	64.5	60.2
Other	29.0	32.3	35.9

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 20.- Percentage distribution of specified items of children's and infants' outerwear by fiber content, United States, 1948-52

Item	1948	1949 1/	1950	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Coats (including capes and reversibles)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	2.9	2.9	3.5	3.8	2.3
Rayon and acetate	2.6	2.9	8.0	15.5	15.7
Wool and other	94.5	94.2	88.5	80.7	82.0
Coat-and-legging and coat-and-snow pants	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	1.3	1.2	3.1	4.9	7.6
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.4	5.8	10.5
Wool and other	98.7	98.7	95.5	89.3	81.9
Ski and snow suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	43.7	36.9	32.7	25.5	27.8
Rayon and acetate	9.3	15.6	30.8	42.6	34.4
Wool and other	47.0	47.5	36.5	31.9	37.8
Ski and snow pants and leggings	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	14.1	26.5	16.6	20.6	8.9
Rayon and acetate	---	0.1	1.6	1.0	10.0
Wool and other	85.9	73.4	81.8	78.4	81.1
Suits (except ski and snow suits and slack suits)	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	11.2	15.6	25.0	35.9	32.3
Rayon	---	16.3	33.2	44.5	50.9
Wool and other	88.8	68.1	41.8	19.6	16.8
Skirts	---	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	---	36.8	40.7	40.1	47.3
Rayon and acetate	---	5.6	10.7	16.1	20.0
Wool and other	---	57.6	48.6	43.8	32.7
Slacks	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	77.6	82.0	83.6	83.9	85.2
Rayon and acetate	(22.4	1.5	3.5	8.7	9.8
Wool and other	(	16.5	12.9	7.4	5.0
Slack suits	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	89.7	85.4	66.4	72.6	64.6
Rayon and acetate	(10.3	3.8	10.0	13.3	29.7
Wool and other	(	10.8	23.6	14.1	5.7
Jackets	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Cotton	70.4	72.3	79.7	64.9	71.5
Rayon and acetate	---	0.5	8.8	23.1	12.7
Wool and other	29.6	27.2	11.5	12.0	15.8

1/ Derived from preliminary data.

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

Table 21.- Percentage distribution of production of sweaters, knit jackets, and jerseys, by fiber content and type, United States, 1948-52

Class and product	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
Men's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	77.9	76.4	76.0	71.1	70.8
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	6.9	6.5	9.3	10.3	7.8
Other	15.2	17.1	14.7	18.6	21.4
Women's					
Sweaters and jerseys	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	74.8	68.8	64.2	58.9	57.1
All nylon	25.2	31.2	28.7	31.4	29.8
Other			7.1	9.7	13.1
Cardigans	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	91.3	85.7	85.9	74.7	75.0
All nylon	8.7	14.3	7.8	15.7	15.5
Other			6.3	9.6	9.5
Boys'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	73.7	69.2	64.7	47.4	61.1
Part wool - 25 percent or more wool	7.7	9.3	9.0	11.5	8.8
Other	18.6	21.5	26.3	41.1	30.1
Girls'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	97.5	90.4	79.8	69.9	62.2
All nylon	2.5	9.6	16.9	24.5	34.9
Other			3.3	5.6	2.9
Children's	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	78.7	75.6	62.0	50.3	49.8
Other	21.3	24.4	38.0	49.7	50.2
Infants'	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
All wool	85.0	75.0	73.5	64.9	59.7
Other	15.0	25.0	26.5	35.1	40.3

Derived from reports of the Bureau of the Census.

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